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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



Applicant's or agent's file reference A3-071PCT	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US 03/31617	International filing date (day/month/year) 03.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 03.10.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H01R13/635		
Applicant MOLEX INCORPORATED		

- This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

 These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

- This report contains indications relating to the following items:
 - ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - ☐ Priority
 - ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - ☐ Certain documents cited
 - ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 07.04.2004	Date of completion of this report 06.07.2004
Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Salojärvi, K Telephone No. +31 70 340-4036 

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I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-8 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-7 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/11-11/11 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-7
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-7
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-7
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1 Reference is made to the following document:

D1: PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2002, no. 07, 3 July 2002 (2002-07-03) & JP 2002 083650 A (HOSIDEN CORP), 22 March 2002 (2002-03-22)

2 Novelty

2.1 The document **D1** is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A memory card connector having an interior cavity into which a memory card (100) is inserted to a temporary retained position and the to a fully inserted position, comprising:

- an insulating housing having a rear terminal-mounting section (4) at a rear of the cavity;
- a plurality of terminals (41) mounted on the terminal-mounting section of the housing and having contact portions for engaging contacts on the memory card (100);
- a slider (5) movably mounted on the housing and engageable with the memory card for movement therewith, the slider being slidable along a side wall of the housing, and the slider having a projection (61) engageable in a recess (120) in a side of the memory card; and
- a sheet metal shell (1) covering at least a portion of the insulating housing and including a cover plate overlying at least a portion of said cavity, a side wall plate (33, 36) depending from the cover plate and overlying at least a portion of the side wall of the housing, and a spring structure (26) stamped and formed out of an opening in said side wall plate and engageable with the slider (5) to bias the projection (61) of the slider into the recess in the memory card.

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2.2 The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known memory card connector in that the spring structure is integral with the side wall plate at opposite edges of said opening.

2.3 The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

3 Inventive step

3.1 The difference mentioned in point 2.2 above, i.e. having the spring structure integral with the side wall plate at both edges, is not rendered obvious by the available prior art. It solves the problem of how to provide a cantilevered spring plate structure without resulting in considerable weakening of the side wall plate of the metal shell.

3.2 The solution is thus considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT).

4 Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

5 Industrial applicability

The invention relates to memory card connectors, and consequently it is obvious that the invention has industrial applicability.